

---

## **Rombo Mountain Fire News Release**

Northern Rockies  
Incident Management  
Team  
Larry Svalberg  
Incident Commander

---

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Fire Information  
406-821-1242**

**Date: August 18, 2007 7:30 p.m.**

### **Rombo Mountain Fire Stage I & II Evacuation Orders Issued**

The Ravalli County Sheriff in consultation with the Incident Commander has issued a Stage II Evacuation Order for persons living in Zone 17 as signed along the West Fork Road and better defined as from Lloyd Creek north to just south of Trapper Creek Job Corps Center. Thirty structures are in Zone 17. A Stage II evacuation is defined as Request/Order and Security: Evacuation is necessary to protect the lives of area occupants and emergency personnel responding to the incident. Law enforcement personnel shall attempt to convey this order/request to citizens door to door; however, if this is not practical or possible, this information may be delivered via a Public Address System from a patrol vehicle. Should the latter method be employed the personnel will activate the emergency lights and siren on the vehicle.

Road blocks and 24-hour patrols by law enforcement will be instituted to protect property within the evacuated area.

The Ravalli County sheriff has also issued a Stage I Pre-evacuation Notice for Zone 16 which is better defined as from Lloyd Creek south along West Fork Road to Lavene Creek. A Stage I is defined as and Alert & Warning: There is a high probability of the need to evacuate. Law enforcement personnel/representatives will attempt to make personal visits to each residence and business in the threatened area. Residents are responsible to make arrangements to move property and livestock. Some residents, primarily those with special health needs or other concerns, should relocate during this stage of evacuation.

These orders/notices were deemed necessary due to the fire moving 3 miles to the north today, and based on an approaching cold front and potential for SE winds tonight combined with low relative humidity that could push the fire to the northwest toward West Fork Road. Fire is estimated to be currently 3 miles from any structures.

For more information, call the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office @ 363-3033 or Rombo Mountain Fire Information @ 821-0082.



# Bitterroot National Forest

1801 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Hamilton, MT 59840 (406) 363-7100

## WILDFIRE UPDATE

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Nan Christianson  
Public Affairs Officer  
(406) 363-7113 office  
(406) 531-1130 cell**

### **Bitterroot NF Fire Update – New Evacuations & Closure Orders in Place**

**HAMILTON, MT; AUGUST 18, 2007 PM.**

The **Rombo** fire burned actively again today, and spotted to the north into the bottom of Piquett Creek. The fire is approximately 3 miles from any structures. Given the cold front and the accompanying winds that are expected tonight and tomorrow, new evacuations have been initiated. Stage II evacuations are in affect for 30 structures in the area south of the Job Corp Center to Lloyd Creek. Stage I evacuation notices are being issued for 35 structures between Lloyd Creek and Lavene Creek. Residents can get up-to-date information about these evacuations by calling the Ravalli County Evacuation Hotline at 375-6650. Information regarding the fire can be accessed by visiting [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org) or by calling the Rombo Fire Information Team at 406-821-0082.

The portion of the **Wyman II** fire that is burning on the Bitterroot NF continued to back down the western side of the Sapphires into Boulder Basin. The portion of the fire burning in Little Stoney Creek was fairly active today.

**Wildland Fire Use Fires:** Many of the 15 wildland fire use fires continue to burn actively. Firefighters are posted along the Magruder Road to monitor and control traffic and delays should be expected. Information on these wildland fire use fires can be obtained by calling the West Fork Ranger 821-3269. A Wildland Fire Use Team will arrive on Sunday to manage these fires for the Bitterroot NF.

Official closures of areas, roads and trails resulting from fire activity changes almost daily. Please call the Bitterroot NF at 363-7176, or any one of our District offices, for the most current closure and fire activity information.

##

---

# **Rombo Mountain Fire Bitterroot National Forest News Release**

Northern Rockies  
Incident Management  
Team  
Larry Svalberg  
Incident Commander

---

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Fire Information  
408-821-0082**

Date: August 18, 2007 9 p.m.

## **Rombo Mountain Fire Grows to 17,000 Acres**

**West Fork, Mont.** – Due to significant winds the Rombo Mountain Fire grew an estimated 4,000 acres on Saturday to 17,000 acres. The winds resulted in rapid fire spread primarily to the north and east with sustained crown fire runs, multiple smoke columns, and long range spotting. Some upslope and cross slope spread was also observed to the south. The strong winds also necessitated grounding of aircraft which prevented getting a clear picture of the current fire perimeter. The fire was caused by lightning on July 31 and is located 16 miles south of Conner, MT and 4 miles northeast of Painted Rocks Lake.

A Stage II Evacuation Order was issued late this afternoon by the Ravalli County Sheriff for persons residing in Zone 17 along West Fork Road from just south of Trapper Creek Job Corps Center to Lloyd Creek. Residents are being notified by Sheriff's Office personnel and being requested to leave their homes until the fire threat to that area has passed. In addition, the Sheriff issued a Stage I Pre-evacuation Notice to persons residing in Zone 16 along West Fork Road which includes residences from Lloyd Creek south to Lavene Creek. These residents are also being contacted and given notice. Structure protection actions are being implemented in these zones. Aerial retardant drops were made on the southwest edge of the fire to reduce the potential of the fire hooking around the primary anchor point on the west side of the fire. Structure protection actions are being implemented at the Hot Springs Resort off Highway 93. Dozers and hand crews constructed a line in the Porcupine Saddle vicinity to reduce the potential of fire spread to the east towards Highway 93 and significant values to be protected. Engine crews patrolled and mopped up the west line last night and will continue Saturday night.

Operations planned for Saturday are based on an expected significant wind event tonight and tomorrow associated with an approaching cold front. The primary focus will be on protecting structures from just south of Trapper Creek Job Corps Center south to Lavene Creek off of West

Fork Road and south of the Sula Ranger Station to the Lost Trail Ski Resort off Highway 93. Aerial resources will be used during the early morning hours, until they are grounded by strong winds, to support structure protection and holding lines. Fire growth will be monitored and additional evacuations and/or closures implemented, if needed.

The existing closure order remains in effect. Maps and area closure descriptions are available at Forest offices, and on line at [www.fs.fed.us/rl/bitterroot](http://www.fs.fed.us/rl/bitterroot). The Forest is under Stage 2 fire restrictions which prohibit campfires and smoking other than in a vehicle, building or cleared area due to the high fire danger. Previously issued Stage I Pre-evacuation Notices remain in effect.

Though there are a number of active fires with necessary closures, most of the Bitterroot National Forest is still open for hiking and fishing. Contact your nearest Ranger District Office or the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor's Office for current recreation activity opportunities.

A total of 214 personnel are assigned to the fire and additional firefighting crews, helicopters, and equipment to provide support have been requested, but may not be available due to the large number of fires burning in Montana and other states at this time.

Public and firefighter safety are the highest priority that Svalberg's incident management team, in coordination with the local forest personnel, take into consideration when planning and implementing fire management actions.

For additional information call Rombo Mountain Fire information at 821-0082 or visit the website, [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org).

##